

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:

EDDIE KROON
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Republican Mike Johnson reelected House speaker in dramatic floor vote

By LISA MASCARO, FARNOUSH AMIRI and KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Mike Johnson narrowly won reelection Friday to the House speakership on a first ballot, overcoming hard-right GOP holdouts after a tense standoff and buoyed by a nod of support from President-elect Donald Trump.

The uneasy scene brought an ominous start to the first day of the new Congress. A small collection of hard-line Republicans convened in the back of the House chamber, one by one declining to vote or choosing another lawmaker.

Johnson's face turned grim, acknowledging fresh turmoil and signaling trouble ahead under unified GOP control of Washington.

In the end, however, Johnson was able to flip two remaining holdouts who switched to support him, drawing applause from Republicans. The tally was 218-215.



House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., takes the oath of office after being re-elected as the House of Representatives meets to elect a speaker and convene the new 119th Congress at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

Johnson in his first speech vowed to "reject business as usual" as Republicans take charge.

"We're going to drastically cut back the size and scope of government," he

promised.

Johnson's weak grip on the gavel has threatened not only his own survival but President-elect Trump's ambitious agenda of tax cuts and mass deporta-

tions as Republicans sweep to power. Even his close alliance and backing from Trump himself, usually a sure bet for Republicans, was no guarantee Johnson will stay in power.

The House Democratic leader Hakeem Jefferies attempted to push past the Republican tumult of the past two years, saying it was time to come together, put party politics aside "to get things done" for Americans.

What was once a ceremonial day with newly elected lawmakers arriving to be sworn into office, often with family, friends and children in tow, has evolved into a high-stakes vote for the office of House speaker, among the most powerful elected positions in Washington. Vice President Kamala Harris was swearing in the senators.

While the Senate is able to convene on its own and has already elected party leaders Sen. John Thune as the Republican majority leader and Sen. Chuck Schumer for the Democratic minority the House must first elect its speaker, a role required by the Constitution, second in the line of succession to the president. □

Surgeon General calls for new label on drinks to warn Americans of alcohol's cancer risk

By AMANDA SEITZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alcohol is a leading cause of cancer, a risk that should be clearly labeled on drinks Americans consume, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy proposed on Friday. Murthy's advisory comes as research and evidence

mounts about the bad effects that alcohol has on human health, but his proposal for a label would require a rare approval from the U.S. Congress.

Americans should be better informed about the link between alcohol and cancer, in particular, Murthy argues in his advisory, not-

ing alcohol consumption is to blame for nearly one million preventable cancer cases in the U.S. over the last decade. About 20,000 people die every year from those alcohol-related cancer cases, according to his advisory.

Bottles of beer, wine and liquor already carry warning labels that say pregnant women should not drink and that alcohol consumption can impair someone's ability to drive a car. But Murthy's proposed label would go even further, raising awareness about the risk for cancer, too.

"It's pretty crazy that there's a lot more information on a can of peas than on a bottle of whiskey," said Dr. Timothy Naimi, who directs the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. "Consum-

ers have the right to basic information about health risks, serving size and drinks per container."

Consuming alcohol raises the risk of developing at least seven types of cancer diseases, including liver, breast and throat cancer, research has found. His advisory also notes that as a person's alcohol consumption goes up, so does the risk for developing those illnesses.

"For individuals, be aware that cancer risk increases as you drink more alcohol," Murthy wrote Friday on the social media platform X. "As you consider whether or how much to drink, keep in mind that less is better when it comes to cancer risk." Even with the Surgeon General's advisory and new research that shows the dangers of drinking, it's unlikely Congress would

act swiftly to enact a new Surgeon General's warning on alcohol products.

It's been nearly four decades since Congress approved the first government warning label on alcohol, the one that says pregnant women shouldn't drink and warns about the dangers of driving while drinking. No updates have been made since then.

Before that, Congress approved a label on cigarettes cautioning users that smoking is hazardous to health, a move that is credited with helping America substantially reduce its bad habit.

Any effort to add a cancer warning label to alcohol would face significant push back from a well-funded and powerful beverage industry, which spends nearly \$30 million every year lobbying Congress. □



Jim Beam, Knob Creek and other alcohol bottles are pictured at a bar in Eagle, Colo., Dec. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

Trump's strength and unpredictability can help end the war in Ukraine, Zelenskyy says

By ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. President-elect Donald Trump is "strong and unpredictable," and those qualities can be a decisive factor in his policy approach to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

However, Zelenskyy said it won't be possible to end the almost three years of war in one day, as Trump claimed during his election campaign that he could do.

"The 'hot' stage of the war can end quite quickly, if Trump is strong in his position," Zelenskyy said in a Ukrainian television interview late Thursday, referring to fighting on the battlefield.

"I believe (Trump) is strong and unpredictable. I would very much like President Trump's unpredictability to be directed primarily toward the Russian Federation," Zelenskyy said.

Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, hasn't publicly fleshed out his policy



Former President Donald Trump meets with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Trump Tower, Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, in New York.

on Ukraine, but his previous comments have put a question mark over whether the United States will continue to be Ukraine's biggest and most important military backer.

Zelenskyy is eager to guarantee that Washington's support keeps coming, and he met with Trump in New

York even before the U.S. presidential election in November.

With the war about to enter its fourth year next month, and with Trump coming to power, the question of how and when Europe's biggest conflict since World War II might end has come to the fore. Russia controls about

one-fifth of Ukraine, and capitalized last year on weaknesses in Ukraine's defenses to slowly advance in eastern areas despite high losses of troops and equipment. The war's trajectory isn't in Ukraine's favor. The country is shorthanded on the front line and needs continued support from its

Western partners.

Trump responded favorably to the possibility raised by French President Emmanuel Macron of Western peacekeepers being deployed in Ukraine to oversee an agreement that stops the fighting, Zelenskyy said. He met with Trump and Macron in Paris last month.

"But I raised an issue, saying we didn't hear what specific countries will join this initiative, and whether the U.S. will be there," Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian leader is determined for his country to become a NATO member. The alliance's 32 member countries say that Ukraine will join one day, but not until the war ends.

"The deployment of European troops (to keep the peace in Ukraine) should not rule out Ukraine's future in NATO," Zelenskyy said in the television interview.

Zelenskyy described the incursion by Ukrainian forces into Russia's Kursk border region as a "very strong trump card" in any future peace negotiations. □

Associated Press

Musk is 'misjudged and certainly misinformed' over U.K. grooming attacks, says senior minister

By PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A senior British politician pushed back Friday on Elon Musk's criticism of the government's handling of a historic child grooming scandal. In recent days, Musk has shared and reacted to posts on his X platform that have been critical of the British government after it rejected a call for a public inquiry into the grooming scandal in the north of England town of Oldham.

Though Health Secretary Wes Streeting said Musk's views were "misjudged and certainly misinformed," he urged the world's richest man and close confidant of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to work with the government on tackling the issue of child sexual ex-

ploitation. The government has argued that Oldham must follow in the footsteps of other towns and commission its own inquiry into the historical abuse of mainly girls. A 2022 report into safeguarding measures in Oldham between 2011 and 2014 found that children were failed by local agencies, but that there was no cover-up despite "legitimate concerns" that the far-right would capitalize on "the high-profile convictions of predominantly Pakistani offenders across the country." Musk has also targeted British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who he claimed had failed to bring what many term "rape gangs" to justice when he was the director of public prosecutions between 2008 and 2013. The

scandals, Musk said Friday, represent a "massive crime against humanity."

Streeting told ITV News that the government took child sexual exploitation "incredibly seriously" and that it was supportive of an inquiry into the Oldham scandal, but that it should be led locally.

"Some of the criticisms that Elon Musk has made, I think are misjudged and certainly misinformed, but we're willing to work with Elon Musk, who I think has got a big role to play with his social media platform to help us and other countries to tackle this serious issue," Streeting said. "So if he wants to work with us and roll his sleeves up, we'd welcome that."

Musk has been, it seems, taking a keen interest in the

U.K. political scene since the left-of-center Labour Party won a landslide election victory in July 2024, to bring an end to 14 years of Conservative rule.

Musk has retweeted criticism of Starmer and the

hashtag TwoTierKeir shorthand for an unsubstantiated claim that Britain has "two-tier policing," with far-right protesters treated more harshly than pro-Palestinian or Black Lives Matter demonstrators. □



Elon Musk speaks before Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden, Oct. 27, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta



bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phras-

es may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □



Aruba to me

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Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Luis & Elma Erazo.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is enjoying the amazing people and island and making new friends.

Third time back to your wonderful and happy island.

We arrived on December 19, 2024 at the Marriott Courtyard and soon after met Bill from Ohio and Mark and Margie from Albany, NY. We spent days seeing the sites enjoying each others company and laughs. Here we all are at the pool side at the Courtyard; Pictured right to left, Elma Erazo, Luis Erazo, Bill Jordan, Margie and Mark."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to *Etnia Nativa*, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, *The History of Alto Vista* by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, fa-



ther Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call



Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)

It's called the 'Winter Arc.' And for some, it's replacing New Year's resolutions

By **BRIDGET BROWN**
Associated Press

New York (AP) — A new year is the time to set new goals. Yet studies have shown that most people don't tend to uphold their New Year's resolutions much past the first month. In an attempt to reframe the thinking around new year goal-setting, a new wellness trend has popped

up online. It's called the 'Winter Arc.'

Here's what to know.

What is the Winter Arc?

The goal-setting challenge was created online by fitness and wellness influencers, so there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach or standard definition. There are over 400,000 posts on Instagram with the caption #winterarc, and almost



Jacob Bullard leaps in the air as part of a physical therapy exercise at WashU, Dec. 16, 2024, in St. Louis.

Associated Press



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600,000 on TikTok.

For many of those trying the trend, the Winter Arc involves utilizing the cold, dark earlier months of winter to turn inward and get a jump start on their goals, with the intent of having them in place by the time Jan. 1 rolls around.

It's also meant to encourage participants to be extremely disciplined and rigid with their goals since it's a shorter period to get them done rather than an entire year, or indefinitely. Laura Galebe, an influencer and the self-proclaimed "CEO of Glowup Series," posts videos to her social media accounts talking about her Winter Arc experience. She used the time to commit to "walking every day, journaling, and sticking to (her) skincare and wellness routines."

"I found it very transformative both mentally and physically," Galebe says. "The consistent movement helped me stay energized

and the structure made the season feel a lot less heavy."

How can you participate?

Although some say the Winter Arc challenge can begin in October, it's never too late to start. According to Alex Rothstein, an exercise psychologist with the New York Institute of Technology, the best way to dive in is to carve out time each day to work on your goals.

"If you make sure to actively plan and schedule each commitment," Rothstein says, "you will have an easier time adhering to the program."

He also recommends setting reasonable, realistic goals that are achievable from day to day. "Recognize that if unforeseen circumstances cause you to miss a day or miss a specific goal in a day, it does not mean you failed the entire process," he says. "You should be willing to pick up where you started the next

day."

Galebe recommends finding ways to make fitness "cozy and convenient" in the cold winter months.

"If the thought of heading to the gym in freezing weather is demotivating, consider at-home workouts or joining a heated indoor Pilates or yoga studio," she says. "Another tip is to reframe movement as self-care. Winter is tough on your body and mind so I treat my walks or workouts as part of keeping my overall mental and physical health in check."

To recap:

Set realistic, attainable goals. Plan out your routine and find the time in your schedule in advance. Be okay with missing a day, giving yourself the space to pick up where you left off.

Find cozy and convenient ways to stay active in the colder months.

What's the point?

Elliot Berkman, a professor of psychology at the University of Oregon, says that goal progress, rather than simply goal attainment, is psychologically beneficial. He says it can provide "positive emotion, a sense of purpose and meaning as well as agency and autonomy." □

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Why Apple TV+ is offering a free weekend of binge-watching

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple TV+ is hoping people will make a dent in the Strategic Popcorn Reserve by bingeing its streaming TV and movies for free this weekend in what experts are calling a canny promotion.

The two-day offer this Saturday and Sunday is intended to give viewers a taste of what's behind the Apple paywall and get them hooked, ready to fork over \$9.99 a month in the U.S.

Michael D. Smith, a professor of information technology and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University, said the two-day window is not too short to ignore and not too long to satisfy all demand.

"This is not 'I'm going to let you binge-watch this over the course of three or four days or a week or a couple weeks and then maybe you won't subscribe next month,'" he said. "This is, 'I'm giving you two days to explore my catalog. And I'm hoping that you're going to find something in there that maybe you'll binge. Maybe you'll have time to binge the first six episodes, but it's so cool you've got to come back and you're going to be willing to subscribe to come back.'"

While entertainment companies often use promotions and discounts to lure new customers, Apple TV+'s pitch has no catches, like entering personal info or credit card numbers. All you need is an Apple ID, which is free and which many people already have from the days of 99-cent song downloads.

What can you see behind the paywall? The Emmy-winning "Ted Lasso" and "The Morning Show" and other buzzy series like "Silo," "Shrinking," "Severance," "Bad Sisters," "Slow Horses," "Disclaimer" and "Presumed Innocent."

Movies include "Fly Me to the Moon," "The Instigators," "Spirited," "Ghosted," "Argyle," "Palmer," "Napoleon" and "Killers of the Flower Moon."



The logo for an Apple TV converter is seen on Oct. 6, 2010, in New York.

Associated Press

Smith suspects that by the end of the weekend, Apple will have lots of data to sharpen its approach to new customers and returning ones, like himself. Apple will learn, for example, what genres are hot, which shows attract viewers and how long people spend watching.

Smith will be logging in to watch "Ted Lasso" with his son but also wants to check out "Severance" with his daughter. Two days likely won't be enough to watch both to the end.

"It's kind of like a mall, right? I've got an anchor tenant. For me, it's 'Ted Lasso.' That gets me to the mall. And once I'm at the mall, I'm going to wander around and discover some other stuff there. And they're hoping that the two days isn't long enough for me to shop," he said. "My guess it's going to pay off." There is some evidence that long bingeing widows don't help streamers build customers. A 2020 study by Miguel Godinho de Matos and Pedro Ferreira for the Initiative for Digital Entertainment Analytics at Carnegie Mellon found that binge-watching over several weeks reduces the post-trial likelihood of paid subscriptions.

Apple's weekend deal is clearly an attempt to shake

up its numbers. As of October 2024, it had an estimated 25 million subscribers, making it the eighth most popular streaming service by subscribers. Netflix, in No. 1, has 282.7 million.

"Apple TV+ never really truly took off, even though they do have a series of really high-quality TV shows," says Bo "Bobby" Zhou, a business professor at the University of Maryland. "They are trying to offer a promotional period to let a wider viewer base sample their content in the hope that some of them will be converted."

Other streamers are also offering deals, like Hulu's free 30-day trial, Starz's \$2-a-month plan or Peacock's three-month trial for Samsung Galaxy owners. If viewers miss the Apple TV+ weekend offer, the streamer already has a free 7-day trial promotion going. It has lots of other offers though Target, Best Buy, Samsung and for buyers of Apple devices, too.

Jared Newman, a technology journalist who publishes the newsletter Cord Cutter Weekly, said the promotion seems to be part of a big push by Apple to up its

subscribers. The streamer recently agreed to be distributed through Amazon and there are signals it may want to experiment with an ad-supported tier. "They really need to get their numbers up and need to get more people on board whatever way possible," he said.

"It may be just another way to test the waters of who would access their service if they didn't have to pay for it."

Zhou has seen the industry change from single paid downloads to unlimited access to subscribers and anticipates a future with different tiers of subscribers say, one free episode for non-subscribers and a full season for diehard fans. Anything to get some buzz. "I think the battle amongst tech giants is all about content differentiation," he said.

"How can I capture consumers' attention?' Because attention is the most valuable asset of anyone." □



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Jimmy Butler, when asked if he can find on-court joy again in Miami: 'Probably not'

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Jimmy Butler says he needs to find joy again on the basketball court. And when asked if he can find that joy in Miami, he had a two-word answer. "Probably not," he said.

The relationship between Butler and the Heat a talking point for weeks now seems to have further deteriorated. The Heat lost to Indiana 128-115 on Thursday night, Butler scoring exactly nine points and playing exactly zero seconds in the fourth quarter for the second consecutive game. It also happened Wednesday in a win over New Orleans.

"What do I want to see happen? I want to see me get my joy back from playing basketball, wherever that may be we'll find out here pretty soon," Butler said. "I want to get my joy back. I'm happy here, off the court, but I want to be back to somewhere dominant. I



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) shoots over Indiana Pacers guard Andrew Nembhard (2) and guard Tyrese Haliburton (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, in Miami.

Associated Press

want to hoop and I want to help this team win. Right now, I'm not doing that." It's unclear what happens next. The Heat have no practice Friday and host

Utah on Saturday. ESPN reported after Butler's postgame comments on Thursday that he has "indicated" to the Heat that he wants a trade. Butler has

not said publicly if he wants to be moved. The network also reported on Christmas Day that Butler would prefer a trade by the Feb. 6 deadline in part prompting

the Heat to take the rather unusual step last week of saying that they will not be trading him.

Thursday's game was, obviously, not a typical Butler performance. He spent many possessions largely camped in the corner on offense and took only six shots in 27 minutes; he took five shots from the floor on Wednesday. Heat coach Erik Spoelstra basically made Butler the point guard for parts of the third quarter in an effort to spark things. It didn't work.

"Obviously he's frustrated, because he's standing on the corner," Heat captain Bam Adebayo said. "So, he's got a lot of things going on in his corner. For us, we keep the main thing the main thing like our coach always tells us. We play to win and that's what it's all about."

Butler said he felt like he was focused and that he did his job Thursday, adding "or at least, what my job is now."

"That's not what I'm used to being," Butler said. "I haven't been that since my first, second, third year in the league, where I just went out there and played defense. I competed. I guarded. That's what I'm doing now."

Butler has not reached double figures in scoring in three consecutive games, the first time that's happened since November 2013. He was scoreless against Oklahoma City on Dec. 20, leaving midway through the first quarter because of a twisted ankle and an illness. He has had moments where he still seems very much elite: Butler is less than a month removed from a 35-point, 19-rebound, 10-assist, four-steal game against Detroit on Dec. 16.

But he's also been held to 10 points or less six times already this season; in fairness, he left two of those games early for illness or injury.

"We tried to get him involved, I thought," Heat guard Tyler Herro said after Thursday's game. □



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